

Los Angeles Times

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THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025

latimes.com

Newsom blasts Trump's tactics

He says the president intentionally inflamed tensions in L.A. in speech that drew Democrats' praise.

BY TARYN LUNA

SACRAMENTO — With federal troops occupying the streets of downtown Los Angeles and immigration agents carrying out indiscriminate raids across the city, Gov. Gavin Newsom forcefully rebuked President Trump's claim that militarization was necessary to control the protests and offered an alternative vision of leadership for a nation in turmoil.

"Donald Trump's government isn't protecting our communities—they're retraumatizing our communities," Newsom said in a speech Tuesday shared on social media during the prime-time hour. "And that seems to be the entire point."

The governor released the speech hours after Trump said at Ft. Bragg in North Carolina that he sent in the California National Guard and the U.S. Marines to protect immigration agents from "the attacks of a vicious and violent mob." By standing up and countering Trump's assertions, Newsom endeared himself to Democrats who are hungry for a leader who isn't afraid to fight back.

"He looked like a real leader," said Celinda Lake, a national Democratic pollster based in Washington, D.C. "I thought he made a really clear point. He looked extremely authentic. He was strong. He looked like the kind of person you'd want in charge of your state, in charge of your city and in charge of your country."

Newsom portrayed a sharply different reality to the White House's version of events that led to the federal takeover of Los Angeles, contending that Trump intentionally fanned the flames of the protests and pulled "a military dragnet" across the city, endangering peaceful protesters and tar-

[See Newsom, A9]

Federal charges

Protesters are accused of serious crimes, but others were in minor skirmishes. CALIFORNIA, B1

Media treatment

Journalists have been shot with less-lethal rounds, shoved and detained. CALIFORNIA, B1



CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

CALIFORNIA National Guard troops protect a federal building in downtown L.A. as workers remove graffiti.

Calmer center as raids sweep region

Downtown L.A. sees less unrest overnight under curfew. Officials and residents take stock of last few days.

BY SUMMER LIN, JAMES QUEALLY, RICHARD WINTON, HANNAH FRY AND ANDREA CASTILLO

Amid a new curfew and signs that the unrest in downtown Los Angeles was easing, the sweeping federal immigration crackdown that sparked days of protests appeared to be gaining steam across many parts of the region — from suburban retail centers to farmland in Ventura County.

The White House confirmed on Wednesday that 330 people have been taken into custody by federal authorities since immigration sweeps began last week in Los Angeles. White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said of those, 113 individuals, or about a third of the group, had prior criminal convictions.

As the president and his supporters in conservative media tell it, he is the defender of law and order and American values. They cast their opponents as dangerous foreign-born criminals and their feckless enablers in the Democratic Party and mainstream media.

The state's political leaders and journalists offer a compelling rebuttal: that Trump touched off several

[See Images, A9]

"They are creating havoc and fear," Trujillo said during a news conference.

One of the more dramatic

[See Curfew, A7]

Images, spin and distortion

Angelenos and local leaders reject portrayal of an L.A. about to be 'completely obliterated'

BY JAMES RAINIEY



GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

A PROTESTER waving a Mexican/American flag taunts CHP officers holding a skirmish line Tuesday.

porters have used to condemn L.A. as a place that is "out of control" and on the brink of total collapse.

The images and their true meaning and context have become the subject of a furious debate in the media and among political partisans, centered on the true roots and victims of the protests, which erupted on Friday as the Trump administration moved aggressively to expand its arrests of undocumented immigrants.

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The state's political leaders and journalists offer a compelling rebuttal: that Trump touched off several

[See Images, A9]

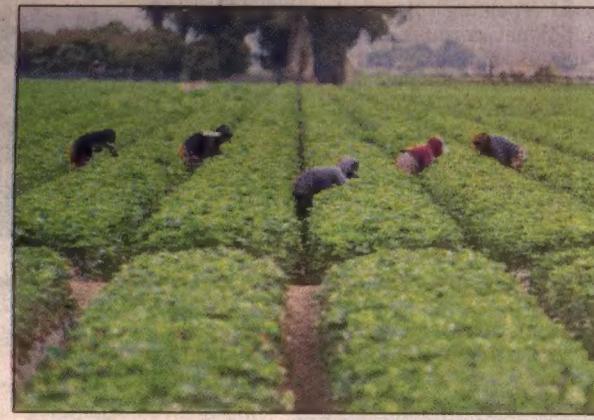
"They are creating havoc and fear," Trujillo said during a news conference.

One of the more dramatic

[See Curfew, A7]

ICE crackdown expands to agriculture sites

Farms and packinghouses see 'uptick in the chaotic presence' of agents



MICHAEL OWEN BAKER For The Times

FARMWORKERS in a strawberry field in Oxnard. Several farms were visited by ICE on Tuesday.

BY JESSICA GARRISON, MELISSA GOMEZ AND ANDREA CASTILLO

Alarm spread through California agricultural centers Tuesday as panicked workers reported that federal immigration authorities — who had largely refrained from major enforcement action in farming communities in the first months of the Trump administration — were showing up at farm fields and packing-houses from the Central Coast to the San Joaquin Valley.

"Today we are seeing an uptick in the chaotic presence of immigration enforcement, particularly the Border Patrol," said Elizabeth Strater, vice president of the United Farm Workers. "We're seeing it in multiple areas."

Department of Homeland Security officials declined to confirm specific locations but said enforcement actions were taking place across the southern area of the state. Advocates from numerous immigrant advocacy groups said their phones were lighting up with [See Raids, A8]

Fears of detention upend life in L.A.

BY CONNOR SHEETS

Hundreds of eighth-graders in freshly ironed button-down shirts and flowing dresses filed into Andrew Carnegie Middle School with their families Tuesday morning in high spirits.

But the graduation festivities at the school in Carson had an ominous undertone, as word had sp-

BRIAN WILSON, 1942 – 2025

The genius but often-fragile

ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025 • LATIMES.COM/ENTERTAINMENT



GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

RIAN WILSON performs the Beach Boys' 1966 album "Pet Sounds" at the Pantages in 2017. The album represents the apotheosis of Wilson's expressive power.



PATRICK BALL is
stylish in the title role.
JEFF LORCH

Review
CHARLES McNULTY
THEATER CRITIC

To see
or not
to see
this noir
version

Robert O'Hara's
'Hamlet' audaciously
but incoherently toys
with Shakespeare.

Playwright and director
Robert O'Hara has turned
big.

HE CAPTURED OUR VIBE AND SOUL

Beach Boys co-founder Brian Wilson was a true visionary, whose gift was to probe the endless possibility of sound

By MIKAEL WOOD POP MUSIC CRITIC

Brian Wilson didn't create the sun or the ocean or the sea-sprayed landmass we call Southern California. He didn't invent the car or the surfboard. He wasn't the first person to experience the cold pang of loneliness or to fall in love with somebody so deeply that the only thing to do is regret it. Listen to a song by the Beach Boys, though — to one of the tortured and euphoric classics that made them the most important American pop group of the 1960s — and I bet you'd be willing to believe otherwise. I bet you'd insist on it.

Wilson, who died Wednesday at 82, was one of music's true visionaries, if that's the right word for a guy who dealt in the endless possibility of sound. As a composer of melodies, a constructor of textures, an arranger of vocal harmonies — as someone who knew how to pull together complicated

elements into songs that somehow felt inevitable — he was up there with Phil Spector, George Martin and the Motown team of Holland-Dozier-Holland.

The Beach Boys' hits are so embedded into American culture at this point that you don't really need me to provide examples. But let's do that for a second — let's savor the beginning of "Wouldn't It Be Nice," where an eerily out-of-tune electric guitar conjures a dreamlike atmosphere until the hard thwack of a snare drum breaks the spell. Let's think about that terrifying theremin line that snakes through "Good Vibrations" like it's tugging a flying saucer down onto Dockweiler Beach.

What we should really do is go over to YouTube and pull up the isolated vocals from "God Only Knows," which allow you to luxuriate in Wilson's obsession with the human voice. The song [See Appreciation, E6]

MUSICAL FORCE Brian Wilson dies at 82. A1 CLASSIC CATALOG 13 of icon's finest songs. E6



CBS via Getty Images
SLY and the Family Stone perform in 1969.

Everyday people's guide to songs by Sly Stone

Here are 10 essential and influential tracks by the funk pioneer, who died Monday.

MIKAEL WOOD
POP MUSIC CRITIC

Sly Stone's hit-making era lasted all of six years — from the end of 1967 to the end of 1973 — but the music he made over that half-decade helped map the future.

The singer, songwriter, producer and style icon, who died Monday at 82, came up as a DJ in San Francisco before putting together the Family Stone: a multiracial

Review AMY NICHOLSON FILM CRITIC

CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025 :: LATIMES.COM/CALIFORNIA



JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

PROTESTERS march in Los Angeles on Tuesday. Police actions against the media have drawn condemnation from public officials.

Law enforcement's treatment of media covering protests again under scrutiny

Journalists have been shot with less-lethal rounds, shoved and detained while chronicling the civil unrest.

LIBOR JANY

Abraham Márquez, a reporter with the nonprofit investigative news startup Southlander, was filming a tense standoff between Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies and immigrant rights protesters in Paramount on Saturday night when he saw a deputy aim a "less-lethal" launcher in his direction.

Sensing a confrontation, Márquez said he raised his press credential and "kept yelling press, press, press," even as he turned and began running in the opposite direction. He barely made it a few feet before he felt a stinging pain as first one foam round, then another slammed into his buttocks and his back.

"They just unloaded," he said of the deputies.

He was nearly struck again a short time later, when deputies riding by in an armored vehicle sprayed foam rounds into a gas station parking lot where Márquez and a KTLA-TV news crew had sought cover, he said. He was shaken, but said that he felt compelled to keep reporting.

"I got hit and whatnot but I'm glad I was there to document it," he said.

The incident was one of dozens in which journalists have been shot with less-lethal police rounds, tear-gassed, shoved and detained while chronicling the ongoing civil unrest and military intervention in the nation's second-largest city, according to interviews and video footage reviewed by The Times.

The police actions have drawn angry condemnation from public officials and 1st Amendment advocates. There have been multiple reported instances of journalists not only being struck by projectiles but also having their bags searched, being threatened with arrest and getting blocked from areas where they

had a right under state law to observe police activity.

Among those hit by police projectiles were several Times reporters in the course of covering protests in downtown L.A. over the last few days.

The LAPD and L.A. County Sheriff's Department have faced criticism and lawsuits over their treatment of news media during past crises, but some covering the recent events say the situation has only gotten worse with the inflammatory anti-media messaging coming from the Trump White House.

"The price for free speech should not be this high," said Arturo Carmona, president and publisher of Caló News, a news site that covers [See Press, B4]

Chair of sheriff's civilian panel is ousted

Robert Bonner says he wants to stay on oversight commission to finish crucial tasks.

BY CONNOR SHEETS

The top official on the watchdog commission that oversees the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is being terminated from his position, according to his letter to The Times.

Robert Bonner, chair of the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission, wrote in a Wednesday letter to L.A. County Supervisor Kathryn Barger that he received a letter from her on May 13 that said he was being replaced.

Bonner wrote in the letter that he had contacted Barger's office to request "an opportunity to meet with you and to express my personal wish to be able to finish out the year." Barger's office said on May 15 that a scheduler would reach out to set up a meeting, but that never happened, according to Bonner's letter. He added that he is "Involuntarily leaving the Commission" and that he would prefer to stay on to finish work that is underway.

"Given the length of time that I have been on the Commission, and that I am the current Chair of the Commission with another pos-

[See Commission, B3]

Education funds for state are 'at risk,' U.S. says

BY HOWARD BLUME,
JAWEED KALEEM
AND DANIEL MILLER

As concerns heighten among officials and educators about possible pending federal funding cuts to California, U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon said Tuesday that the state is at risk, but did not elaborate on when a decision would be made or what the cuts could be.

McMahon, in a video-taped interview with Bloomberg, was responding



CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

FEDERAL authorities have accused protesters of shoving and throwing hard objects toward agents.

By NATHAN SOLIS

Federal immigration authorities have deported a 9-year-old Torrance Elementary School student and his father to Honduras after the pair showed up for a routine immigration hearing last month.

Martin Gómez-Romero, 59, and

his son, Martin, 9, were

detained at the hearing because

they did not have valid docu-

ments, according to the U.S. De-

partment of Homeland Security.

The deportation is the latest in a

series of high-profile cases of

deportations of children and

adults from the United States

to Central America.

The deportations have

drawn criticism from

humanitarian groups and

lawmakers who say the

deportations are inhumane

and violate international law.

The deportations have

also raised concerns about

the safety of children and

adults who are being de-

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FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2025 • VOL. CCLXXXV NO. 137

What's News

Business & Finance

♦ **Micron Technology** plans to invest more than \$200 billion in semiconductor manufacturing in the U.S., a move it estimates will create roughly 90,000 jobs. **B1**

♦ **U.S. government bonds** extended their rally as investors placed their hopes on a cut in interest rates. Major stock indexes rose, with the S&P 500 gaining 0.4% and the Dow and Nasdaq both advancing 0.2%. **B8**

♦ **JetZero** said it would break ground next year on a manufacturing plant in Greensboro, N.C., to build its futuristic Z4 commercial aircraft, ultimately investing nearly \$5 billion. **B1**

♦ **Shares of fintech company Chime Financial** jumped 37% from their IPO price in their debut on the Nasdaq, giving the company a market capitalization of about \$13.5 billion. **B3**

♦ **BlackRock executives** said that in pursuit of private-markets heft the firm aimed to double its operating income and stock price over the next five years. **B3**

♦ **Tesco maintained its full-year expectations** after sales climbed in its fiscal first quarter, when the U.K. grocer continued to gain share of a competitive market. **B3**

♦ **BioNTech will acquire all shares of CureVac** after the two companies reached agreement on a deal valued around \$1.25 billion. **B4**

♦ **U.S. natural-gas storage levels** rose to a small surplus since a colder-than-expected winter drained inventories, but demand projections suggest prices may rise in the future. **B8**

World-Wide

♦ An Air India Boeing 787-8 passenger jet carrying 242 people bound for London crashed into a residential area less than a minute after taking off from the western Indian state of Gujarat. **A1, A8**

♦ **Israel is prepared to attack Iran** in coming days if Tehran rejects a U.S. proposal that would place tough limits on its nuclear program, Trump administration and Israeli officials said. **A1, A6**

♦ **House Republicans** narrowly passed a \$9.4 billion rescissions package that includes cuts to foreign aid and to the entity that funds NPR and the Public Broadcasting Service. **A3**

♦ **The Senate confirmed** former Republican Rep. Billy Long to run the IRS, placing a vocal Trump supporter in charge of the tax agency. **A2**

♦ **Democratic Sen. Alex Padilla** of California was forcibly ejected from a news conference where immigration officials said they would forge ahead with their operations in Los Angeles. **A4**

♦ **The judge in Harvey Weinstein's sex-crimes retrial** declared a mistrial on a lesser charge after the disgraced producer was convicted of a more-serious one. **A3**

Hundreds Dead in Air India Crash



Air India Flight 171 crashed into a residential area near the airport in Ahmedabad. Scan the code on A8 for video of the crash.

787 Dreamliner falls in residential area shortly after takeoff; one man survives

An Air India Boeing 787-8 passenger jet carrying 242 people bound for London crashed into a residential area Thursday, less than a minute after taking off from the western Indian state of Gujarat.

Only one person is known by Indian authorities to have survived the crash, which was the first fatal incident involving the aircraft known as the Dreamliner.

By Shan Li,
Andrew Tangel and
Krishna Pokharel

"There is good news of one person surviving," said Home Minister Amit Shah of India, after meeting the person in a hospital in Ahmedabad.

The survivor was a British national seated in 11A.

Shah said rescuers recovered most of the bodies from the crash site. The amount of fuel involved in the plane's explosion meant "there was no opportunity to save anyone," he said.

Within seconds of takeoff, it was clear that Air India Flight 171 was in trouble.

The Boeing 787 Dreamliner strained to climb in the steamy midday heat. It barely cleared the rooftops of the residential neighborhood just beyond the runway in the crowded Indian metropolis of Ahmedabad.

A mayday call went out from the cockpit. But there was no response to subsequent calls from air-traffic control, according to India's civil aviation regulator.

Shortly after taking off around 1:40 p.m. local time, Flight 171 slammed into a hostel filled with medical students in a fiery crash.

Please turn to page A8

♦ First—and final—seconds of Flight 171 A8

Tragedy Leaves Boeing's Recovery In Question After Years of Struggle

The crash of an Air India flight to London is the first fatal incident involving a Boeing 787, dealing a fresh blow to the plane maker seeking to emerge from a series of safety and manufacturing crises.

By Sharon Terlep,
Benjamin Katz
and Andrew Tangel

The hobbled American icon has been buffeted by successive problems in recent years, losing billions of dollars due to plane groundings and production delays. Thursday's crash now threatens the company's fragile recovery.

The Boeing 787-8 jet, carrying 242 people, crashed less than a minute after taking off from an airport near Ahmedabad in western India.

It isn't yet clear what caused the incident. Accidents can be caused by multiple and compounding factors, from flight crew errors and maintenance slip-ups to external forces or manufacturing and design faults.

Boeing Chief Executive Kelly Orteberg said Thursday that he has spoken with Air India Chairman N. Chandrasekaran, adding that the company stood ready to support the airline.

"Our deepest condolences go out to the loved ones of the passengers and crew on board Air India Flight 171, as well as everyone affected in Ahmedabad," he said in a statement.

Boeing stock fell about 5% in Thursday trading.

The Air India crash presents a critical test for Orteberg, who took over in August. The company had only recently started to rebound from a high-profile accident early last year when a fuselage panel on a recently delivered 737 MAX blew off during flight. That incident led to the ouster of Boeing's then-CEO and reigned scrutiny of the com-

pany's safety culture and production issues.

The company weathered a damaging Machinists strike last year that halted production of most of its planes, and struggled with production problems and losses in its defense operations. It came under fire from President Trump for delays in delivering a new Air Force One, and NASA about the safety of its Starliner spacecraft.

The jet maker posted a nearly \$12 billion net loss in 2024, its steepest since 2020. While the company posted a first-quarter loss this year, it Please turn to page A8

ICE Raids Alarm Latino Shoppers

Pullback by Hispanic consumers dents sales for Coca-Cola and other big brands

Coca-Cola has long looked to Hispanic consumers for sales growth—a group the company has said holds an annual \$2.1 trillion in spending power.

By Laura Cooper,
Arian Campo-Flores
and Enrique Pérez de
la Rosa

Now Coke and other brands are discovering what it means to lose them.

Fear and uncertainty are driving changes in shopping behavior. The Trump administration's sweeping deporta-

tions of immigrants living in the country illegally have made many Latinos—including those with legal status—fearful of being stopped by immigration officers. Many consumers say they are retreating from public life, forgoing their regular shopping trips and restaurant meals. Beyond deportation fears, job losses in industries like construction have left Hispanics with less money to spend. And inflation has squeezed their monthly budgets.

The issue has grown increasingly tense after Immi- Please turn to page A9

INSIDE



SPORTS

The bunker specifically designed to torment the world's best golfers. **A12**

MANSION

Millennium Tower in San Francisco stopped sinking—but its condo values never did. **M1**

Israel Weighs Attack On Iran Within Days If Nuclear Talks Fail

Israel is prepared to attack Iran in coming days if Tehran rejects a U.S. proposal that would place tough limits on its nuclear program, Trump administration and Israeli officials said.

By Andrew Dowell,
Alexander Ward
and Josh Dawsey

A senior Israeli official warned that a strike could come as soon as Sunday unless Iran agrees to halt production of fissile material that can be used to make an atomic bomb.

Israel's high-stakes brinkmanship is aimed at pressuring Iran to give up its ability

to enrich uranium, the senior official said. U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff is to hold a sixth round of talks with his Iranian counterparts on Sunday in Oman.

On Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu raised the possibility of strikes in a phone conversation with President Trump, two U.S. officials said. Soon after, the U.S. began moving some diplomats and military dependents out of the Middle East.

U.S. officials say intelligence received in recent days indicated

Please turn to page A6

♦ Iran plans to open a third enrichment site A6

Infamous Author Has a New Novel. His Neighbors Have Questions.

* * *

James Frey's beach read hits close to home

China Firms Dodge U.S. Chip Curbs By Flying Out Suitcases Full of Data

\$10.5 Million
Bob Newhart's
house in
Los Angeles is
for sale. M3

MANSION

SETS | PEOPLE | REDOS | SALES

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

**\$23.85
Million**
Bill Koch lists a
1950s home on
Cape Cod. M2



Friday, June 13, 2025 | M1

Millennium Tower stopped Sinking...



MORE THAN
**\$100
MILLION**
cost of project
to stabilize the
foundation

**\$4
MILLION**
net loss for
recent seller of
penthouse

20%
avg. net loss
for owners who
sold this year

Resale prices at the infamous San Francisco condo building have yet to recover, even after the completion of a project to shore up the foundation and lessen the tower's tilt

BY KATHERINE CLARKE

Craig D. Ramsey thought he was getting a deal. In 2016, amid reports that San Francisco's infamous Millennium Tower was sinking, he paid \$13 million for a penthouse there, convinced that once the building's structural problems were rectified, the unit's value would soar. The purchase price was a significant discount from the nearly \$20 million the previous owner, the late venture capitalist Tom Perkins, spent to buy and build out the unit.

"I knew there was an issue," said Ramsey, who already owned a smaller unit in the building. "I just thought about the value I was getting."

Nearly a decade later, that value never materialized. In January, Ramsey resold the unit for \$9 million, even less than the \$9.4 million Perkins had paid for the property as raw space in 2009.

The loss was a blip for Ramsey, a tech entrepreneur who co-founded a software company that sold to Salesforce for about \$1.3 billion in 2020, and who has several other homes. "It was insignificant. I lost a couple million dollars. So what?" Ramsey said. "You move on."

But the deal speaks to a more pervasive problem at the luxury condo building. The gleaming, nearly 60-story tower was the tallest residential building in San Francisco when it opened in 2009, boasting high-end amenities and views of the Golden Gate Bridge and the Bay Bridge. Then reports emerged that the building had sunk more than a foot and was tilting.

More than \$100 million was spent on an infrastructure project that engineers say has resolved the problem and stabilized the foundation as of 2023. However, values at the building haven't rebounded.

Millennium's homeowners association is determined to shift the building's narrative and boost value. They have even hired a public-relations firm to try to widely disseminate the message that the fix is complete.

"We've gotten so much negative press. We were easy targets—a bunch of people who have been successful in life and then are faced with this challenge," said Dr. Joel Piser, a longtime resident and president of the board of the HOA. "Now, we have something to counter it with. We have met the project's objective to stop the building from settling, and we're recovering."

Please turn to page M8

At Millennium Tower, sellers are listing their units for less than what they paid, even after structural fixes.

Saving, Now Selling, a Historic Frank Lloyd Wright

Decades after restoring the architect's Fountainhead home in Mississippi, Robert Parker Adams is looking for a new steward of the property

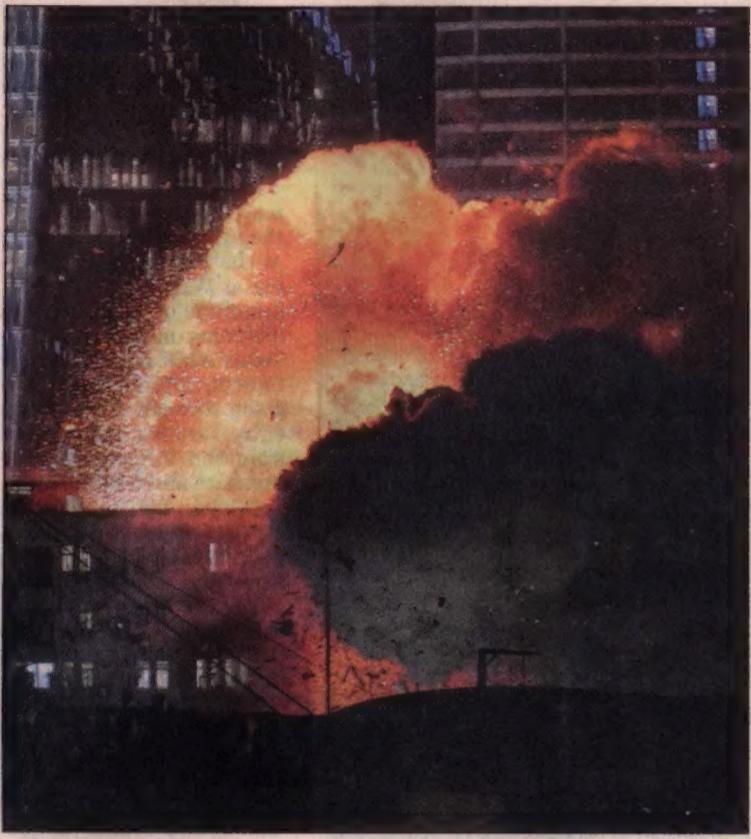


#20 CAHUNG Los Angeles Times

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SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025

latimes.com



TOMER NEUBERG Associated Press

GLOWING smoke fills the sky in Tel Aviv after Iran attacked late Friday. In northern Tehran, right, a firefighter calls out near a residential compound after one of Israel's strikes, which mostly targeted Iran's military leadership and nuclear and military infrastructure.



VAHID SALEM Associated Press

Iran retaliates after Israel's attack

Escalation raises fears of a full-on regional conflict likely to embroil U.S.

By NABIH BULOS

AMMAN, Jordan — Iran launched successive missile barrages on Israel late Friday, a retaliation for a punishing Israeli campaign the same day that wiped out the upper echelons of Iran's military leadership along with important parts of its nucle-

ar and military infrastructure.

The exchanges constituted the most significant escalation between the longtime adversaries — raising the possibility of a protracted conflict and fears the U.S. would become embroiled in another war in the Middle East.

Sirens echoed in

Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, with the nighttime skies over the latter lighted with bursts of yellow as missiles from Israel's Arrow defense system lanced up to intercept Iranian ballistic missiles. The bass-drum beat of multiple explosions could be heard as far away as neighboring Jordan.

Broadcasts from Tel Aviv

showed a residential tower with fire raging inside a number of apartments, while other video showed smoke wreathing several buildings in central parts of the city and missiles falling on empty intersections.

Videos from Iran and published on social media depicted fire and visible damage to several residen-

tial buildings in Tehran. Others showed entire buildings having collapsed, with rubble carpeting the street. One image — The Times could not verify its authenticity — showed a bloodied child lying on a debris-covered floor.

Israeli officials said that more than 40 people were

[See Mideast, A4]

City braces for 'No Kings' protests

At least a dozen groups are planning anti-Trump events in the area after a week of immigration raids.

By SUMMER LIN,
LIBOR JANY,
CHRISTOPHER
BUCHANAN,
CONNOR SHEETS
AND DAKOTA SMITH

Los Angeles and other major cities across the nation are girding for widespread demonstrations against the Trump administration Saturday as the federal government expands its aggressive immigration enforcement crackdown beyond Southern California.

In Washington, the Army will celebrate 250 years of service, as well as President Trump's 79th birthday, with an unprecedented military parade. In response, many around the country will be gathering for "No Kings" demonstrations to voice their opposition to the Trump administration's policies.

In Los Angeles, where federal raids have caused many immigrants to avoid public workplaces and remain in hiding, at least a dozen different activist groups are planning to protest Saturday. The planned anti-Trump event follows eight days of demonstrations downtown, where thousands have condemned federal operations aimed at chasing down and capturing unauthorized immigrants at their jobs and on city streets.

The protests were organized by Indivisible, the American Civil Liberties Union and 5050I, among others.

[See Protests, A9]

Raid fear revives 'notario' scheme

Authorities warn of scammers posing as immigration lawyers for vulnerable people.

By LIBOR JANY

After she was assaulted by her romantic partner in 2000 while living in Los Angeles County, Maria Gutierrez Saragon turned to a family friend who said he could help her secure immigration papers.

Because she had been the victim of a crime, the friend said, he could help her obtain authorization to stay in the U.S.

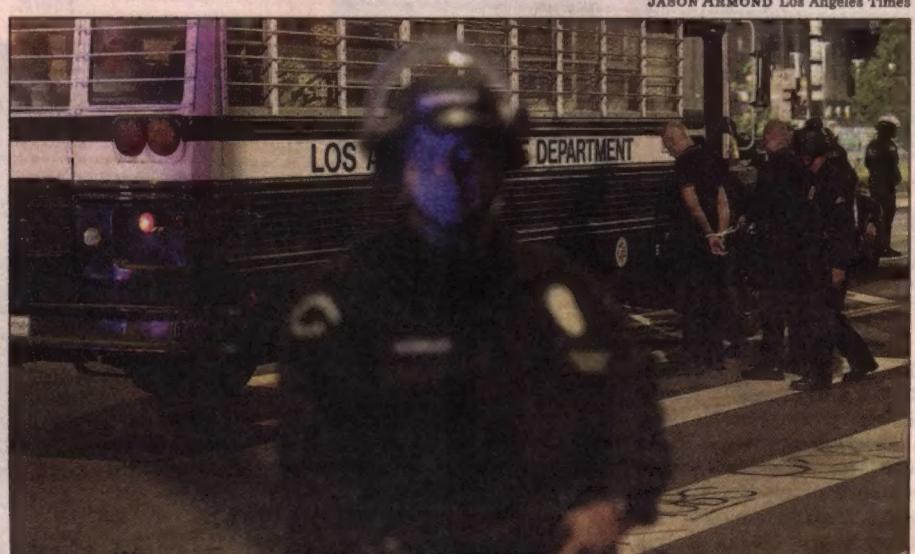
While it's true that immigrant crime victims qualify for special benefits in some instances, the promise to get Gutierrez Saragon citizenship within three months at a discount dragged on for more than a decade. A housekeeper with a modest income, she was slowly bled for more than \$100,000 through a mix of false assurances and threats.

"I had to give him all my money instead of being able to buy my children what they

As different as night and day



JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times



GINA ERBAAZI Los Angeles Times

As the sun sets each evening, tensions rise, but calm and cleanup come in the morning for L.A. protests.

By HAILEY BRANSON-POTTS, REBECCA ELLIS, JULIA WICK AND JAMES QURELLY

On Wednesday morning, the 18-year-old drove an hour from her home in Ontario to downtown Los Angeles to protest ongoing federal immigration raids and President Trump's deployment of the military to the city.

Gryphon Woodson, a new high school graduate, grabbed a pair of goggles and a black bandanna to cover her face. It was her first-ever protest. And after watching videos of chaos in the streets all week, she figured she would be joining throngs of passionate demonstrators.

But she arrived too early.

As she stood outside the graffiti-covered Federal Building on Los Angeles Street around 11 a.m., the downtown streets were clear. Clusters of police officers stood at ease around courthouses and City Hall, drinking coffee and Red Bull, chatting with dog walkers, scrolling on their phones.

Polarized reactions to Padilla incident

Republicans chastise senator, while his fellow Democrats call for an investigation.

By JAMES RAINIE AND SANDRA McDONALD

A day after federal agents forcibly restrained and handcuffed U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla at a Los Angeles news conference, leaders of the country's two political parties responded in what has become a predictable

CALIFORNIA

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025 :: LATIMES.COM/CALIFORNIA



Photographs by JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

PROTESTERS waving various national flags confront law enforcement over the immigration raids on Wednesday near L.A. City Hall.

Waving symbols of defiance in L.A.: 'This flag is my home'

Demonstrators carry other nations' colors in protest of Trump's raids

By SALVADOR HERNANDEZ

Vendors were selling a variety of colorful national flags in downtown L.A. on Wednesday, but Axel Martinez settled on one with Old Glory on one half and the Mexican flag on the other.

The 26-year-old was born in the U.S., raised in Mexico City and returned to the States because of the opportunity, he said.

On Wednesday, he stood among hundreds of other demonstrators outside the Metropolitan Detention Center in downtown L.A. who were facing off with National Guard troops on Alameda Street.

About a dozen other flags — from Mexico, the U.S., California, Guatemala and El Salvador — fluttered over the crowd.

"Everyone has a story here," Martinez said. "I'm proud to be Mexican and to be born here."

For more than a week, protesters have made their way to downtown L.A. to demonstrate against immigration detentions in the city and the presence of the National Guard.

[See Flags, B5]



A DEMONSTRATOR donning a facial covering proudly displays a Mexican flag during the protest.

Voices GUSTAVO ARELLANO COLUMNIST

Sen. Padilla's crime? Being Mexican in America

When U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla was forcibly removed from a news conference held by Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, it was almost as if Donald Trump's most well-worn talking point came to life:

A bad hombre tried to go after a white American.

All Padilla did was identify himself and try to question Noem about the immigration raids across Southern California that have led to protests and terror. Instead, federal agents pushed the senator into a hallway, forced him to the

ground and handcuffed him before he was released. He and Noem talked privately afterward, yet she claimed to reporters that Padilla "lung[ed]" at her despite them being far apart and video showing no evidence to back up her laughable assertion.

(The claim was in keeping with

Noem's pronouncements this week. On Tuesday, she accused Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum of encouraging violent protests in L.A. when the president actually called for calm.)

The manhandling of Padilla on Thursday and his subsequent [See Arellano, B4]

Facility to stop offering trans services

Children's Hospital Los Angeles will halt care because of federal pressure.

By SONJA SHARP

Under mounting pressure from the Trump administration, Children's Hospital Los Angeles will shutter its longstanding healthcare program for trans children and young adults this summer, according to emails reviewed by The Times.

The Center for Trans-youth Health and Development began telling its nearly 3,000 patient families of the closure Thursday, saying there was "no viable alternative" that would allow the safety-net hospital to continue specialized care.

"There is no doubt that this is a painful and significant change to our organization and a challenge to CHLA's mission, vision, and values," hospital executives wrote to staff in a Thursday morning email.

The email said the decision to close the center on July 22 "follows a lengthy and thorough assessment of the increasingly severe impacts of federal administrative actions and proposed policies" that have emerged since the hospital briefly paused the initiation of care for some patients this winter.

The note sent shock waves through the tight-knit patient community, members of which had recently breathed a sigh of relief after CHLA reversed its brief ban on some care for new patients in February.

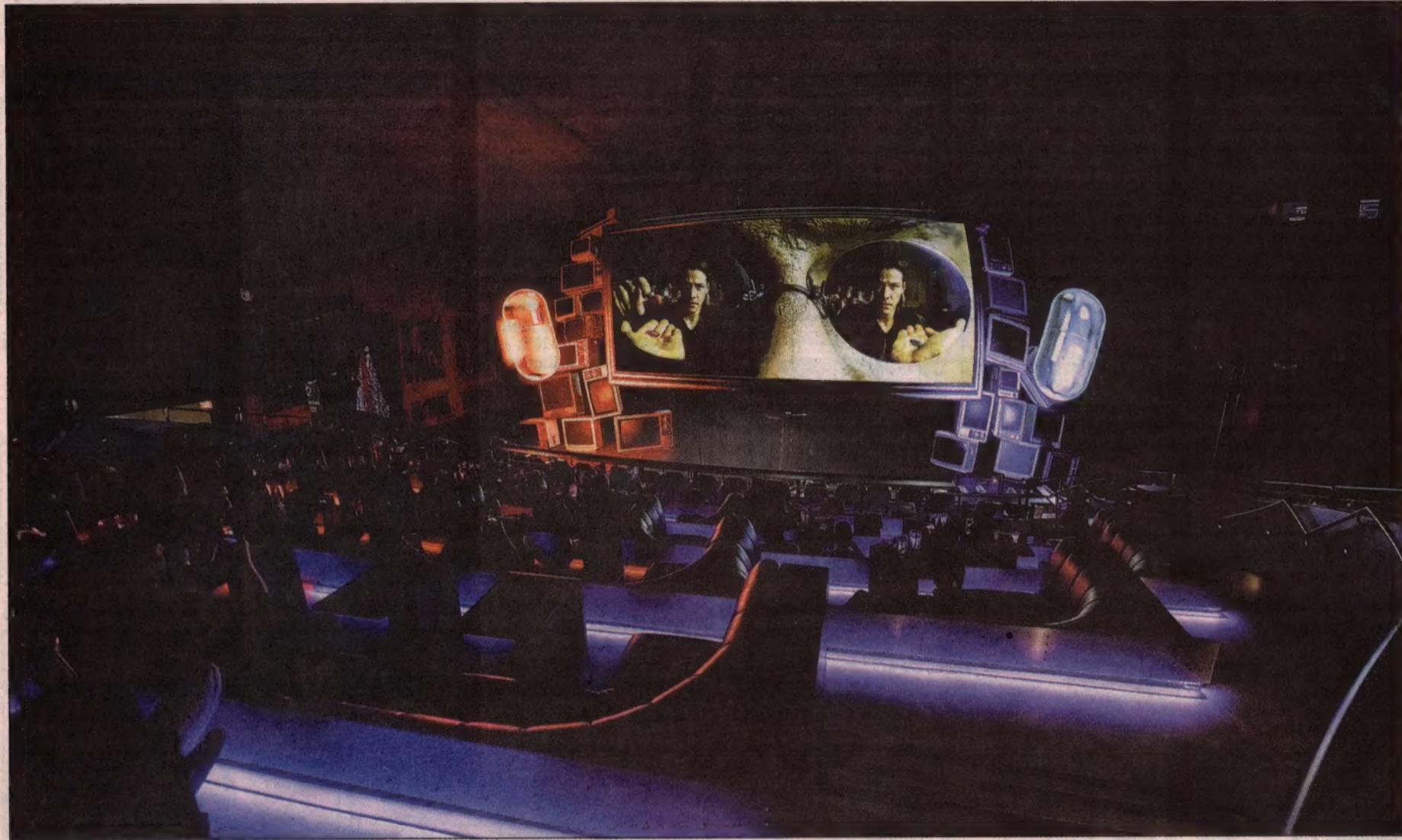
"We're just disappointed and scared and enraged," said Maxine, the mother of a current patient, who declined to give her last name [See Services, B5]

LAUSD graduates' joy mixes with fear

By HOWARD BLUME

The soon-to-be Maywood Academy High School graduates processed, beaming, into an auditorium at East Los Angeles College to a recording of "Pomp and Circumstance."

The crowd pledged allegiance to the flag. The name of each student joining the U.S. armed forces was read



Photographs from Cosm

NEW ANIMATION enhances the red pill-blue pill scene in "The Matrix," above, at L.A. venue Cosm. Below, CGI surrounds the film to immerse audiences in its world.

Entering a new reality inside 'The Matrix'

[Cosm, from E1] illusion of in-the-flesh presence. Can't make it to that NBA Finals or World Series game? Cosm wants to be your fallback plan, combining front-row-like seats with unexpected views.

And now, Cosm aims to redefine the moviegoing experience. A revival of "The Matrix" recently opened in what the company calls "shared reality," a marketing term that ultimately means newly created CGI animation towers, over, under and around the original 1999 film. Cosm has in the past shown largely short-form original programming, and "The Matrix" marked its first foray into feature-length films.

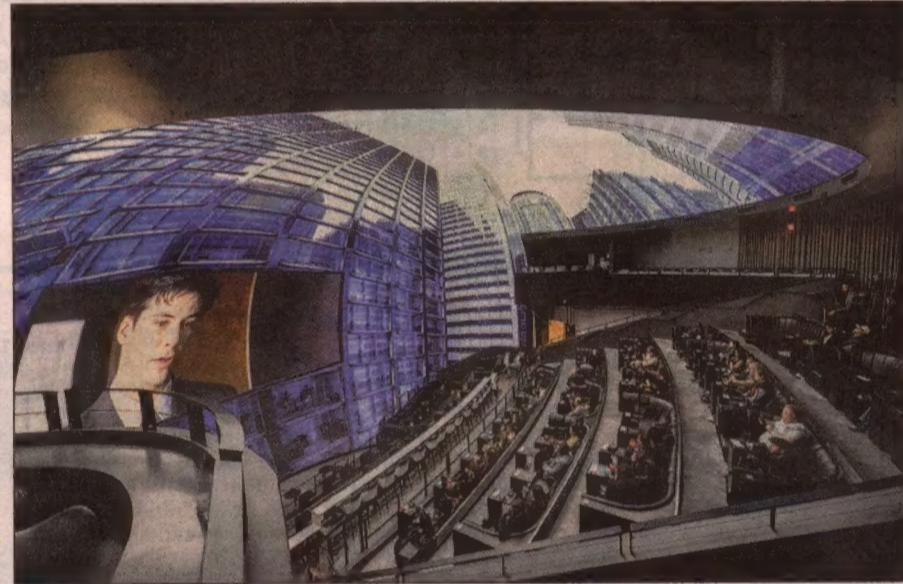
The hope is to not only see the film with fresh eyes but to create a sensation of being in the same environment as Keanu Reeves' Neo, Carrie-Anne Moss' Trinity and Laurence Fishburne's Morpheus. "The Matrix" is an ideal film for this experiment, its anti-AI message decidedly topical while its themes grapple with dual visions of reality.

There's been a host of so-called immersive ambitions

to alter the moviegoing experience over the decades, be it the on-and-off flirtation with interactive cinema, a brief trend in the '90s that recently lived again on Netflix (see "Black Mirror: Bandersnatch"), to more recent 4-DX theaters with movement-enabled seats (see the light, water and wind effects of "Twisters"). Cosm, like the bigger, more live music-focused Sphere in Las Vegas, seems to have a different pitch: an all-encompassing screen that can provide previously unexplored vantage points, even at times creating a theme park ride-like sense of movement.

Cosm's interpretation of "The Matrix," a collaboration with experiential creative agency Little Cinema, envelopes audiences from its opening action sequence when a nighttime view of a city skyline seemingly places us on a rooftop. Elsewhere, Neo's office building becomes a maze of cubicles.

The film's centerpiece red pill versus blue pill moment centers the frame among oversized, glowing capsules. When Neo awakens, we are lost amid mountainous, in-



dustrial pods.

The challenge: To not make it feel like a gimmick, yet to also know when to pull back and let the film stand for itself. "The No. 1 core principle was to enhance and don't overshadow," says Jay Rinsky, founder of Little Cinema. "Metaphorically for us, the movie itself is the lead singer and we are the backing band. Let the movie be the star. Let it sing. And basically follow the key beats — follow the sound design, the emotional moments and enhance the action."

The accompanying images get more aggressive as the film races toward its climax. The animations are most effective when they're expanding the screen rather than echoing the action — showing us the viewpoint of a careening helicopter for in-

stance, rather than repeating or mimicking a beat of the film. Having seen "The Matrix" before, I know the story and its cadence, and was perhaps more willing to turn my attention away from the film, which is placed in the center of the screen and often set within a picture frame.

In turn, I was dazzled by the scenes shot inside Morpheus' hovercraft the Nebuchadnezzar, in which the vessel's surroundings — its buzzing, electrical core and its assortment of monitors — are fleshed out around the screen. Film purists, I wonder, may balk at seeing images beyond the director's vision — Rinsky says he hasn't been in touch with directors Lana or Lilly Wachowski — but I found it could help build a world, es-

specially for revival cinema on a second or third viewing.

Expectedly, the film's final act becomes a bevy of secondary action. Bullets that fly off the frame of the film now find a landing spot, as building walls shatter and crumble around us. Cosm's screen is crisp and encompassing enough that it can mimic movement or flight, and thankfully this is used sparingly, twisting only when the film's characters take to the skies.

When Cosm opened last summer Chief Executive Jeb Terry stressed the venue wasn't in the business of showing films, wanting to focus on sports or original programming. "We're not a first-run theater," Terry said. "We're leaning into the experiential side." Seemingly, "The Matrix" fits this

plan, as the accompanying CGI images have been in the works since about August 2024, says Rinsky, with the bulk of the heavy lifting beginning in January.

Rinsky acknowledges "The Matrix" fits the format particularly well because it "plays in a realm of fantasy that allows you to change environments around," but is quick to add that Cosm and Little Cinema hope to expand the program of enhancing Hollywood products. "It is a bit of a mission and a philosophy," he says. "Every film in every genre has its own unique propositions and can be adopted and suited well. We're excited about horror, and we're excited about comedy." Future projects have not yet been announced.

Cosm also has a venue in Dallas, with spots in Atlanta and Detroit on the way. Rinsky's hope, of course, is that Cosm someday has enough market penetration that filmmakers can create the format from the ground up.

"I'm really bullish about this being the new cinema," Rinsky says. "I think in five to 10 years, there will be 100 of these around. Once it hits scale, then big studios will have releases created specifically for this format."

It's an optimistic view of the future that's arriving at a time of disruption in Hollywood, from shake-ups due to the streaming market to artificial intelligence. For Cosm, it's the early days, but it's a vision that needs neither a red nor blue pill. Its outlook is much more rose-colored.

'Materialists' misses a chance

[Materialists, from E1] "Past Lives," her lightly autobiographical breakthrough, tasked a writer to choose between her South Korean childhood beau and her hapless and less successful American husband — that is, to decide whether to keep chasing youthful dreams or settle for adult reality. I liked chunks of the film, but it rankled me that she framed the spouse as

about him is how confidently he picks up the check. (I gasped to see her walk out of a bar, tactlessly ordering him to cover the tab.) Nearly every line in the film's ferociously hilarious first hour is like Jane Austen reborn as a shock jock, until Song runs out of material and starts repeating herself.

Love should be simple, "Materialists" believes. It opens (and closes) with an



#20 CAHUNG. 6/13/25. Los Angeles Times

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FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2025

latimes.com



SEN. ALEX PADILLA is removed from Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem's news conference in L.A.

White House: L.A. raids are sign of what's to come in U.S.

A top Trump aide says operations in 'sanctuary' cities will rise

BY ANDREA CASTILLO

WASHINGTON — When Donald Trump promised on the campaign trail to unleash the largest deportation campaign in U.S. history, he said his second administration would start by going after people with criminal records.

But now, disappointed with the pace of arrests, the

Trump administration is casting a wider net by targeting anyone deportable.

Raids in California have taken place at courthouses, during scheduled check-ins with immigration authorities, at clothing factories, Home Depots, car washes, farms and outside churches. But officials say the state is hardly being singled out. Raids are coming for other "sanctuary" jurisdictions

too, said Tom Homan, President Trump's chief advisor on border policy.

"This operation is not going to end," Homan told The Times.

Across the country, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is stepping up new strategies and tearing down precedent to meet the White House's demands. Homan acknowledged that the pace of deportations had

not met expectations and that although the administration still prioritizes removing those who threaten public safety and national security, anyone in the country illegally is fair game.

"I'm not happy with the numbers," he said. "We need to find these people."

Arrests are being made in places previously considered off limits, and the ad-

[See Homan, A9]

Rights groups fight for their own lives

They face death threats, federal inquiries as they aid more immigrants

BY RACHEL URANGA

"No firmes nada," a union organizer shouted into a bullhorn as he stood atop the flatbed of a truck outside Ambiance Apparel, doling out battlefield legal advice not to sign anything. "You have a right to a lawyer. You are not alone."

Advocates and lawyers had arrived at the downtown store minutes after tips began to pop off at the hotline set up by the Los Angeles Rapid Response Network, a coalition of 300 volunteers and 23 labor unions and immigrant rights and social justice groups that was organized last year to respond to enforcement.

They joined protesters and tearful family members jostling around a plate glass window to catch glimpses of

[See Advocates, A10]



BRITNEY MEJIA Los Angeles Times

California launches probe of State Farm

Trump signs law to kill state auto emission rules

Tensions boil over as senator is tackled, ICE arrests pick up

Federal immigration sweeps spread fear and uncertainty across the region and force workers into hiding.

BY SUMMER LIN,
CHRISTOPHER
BUCHANAN,
RACHEL URANGA,
HANNAH FRY
AND JAMES QUEALLY

Tensions over President Trump's immigration crackdown boiled over Thursday as Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) was forcibly removed from a Homeland Security news conference and immigration agents swept across the region arresting people suspected of living in the United States illegally.

Outrage over the operations has sparked a week of protests, with California officials going to court in an attempt to roll back Trump's deployment of the National Guard to Los Angeles without the consent of state or local leaders.

Federal officials declined

Senator was forced to his knees

Democrats decry his detainment as "un-American." NATION, A8

Defense secretary on military in L.A.

He wouldn't say whether he'd obey a ruling against deployment. NATION, A10

Nine car washes are raided

A look at these and other worksites targeted by ICE. BUSINESS, A12

to say how many were arrested in recent days. But Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said at a news conference Thursday that the department is not limiting its arrests to only those with criminal records. In fact, two-thirds of those taken into custody have no criminal records, according to the White House.

About five minutes into the Noem news conference at the Wilshire Federal

[See Raids, A8]

Judge appears to question federal call-up of Guard

California officials say Trump exceeded his authority in sending state's troops without consent of governor.

BY MICHAEL WILNER
AND QUEENIE WONG

A federal judge in San Francisco expressed skepticism at a hearing Thursday that President Trump had the authority to federalize the National Guard, questioning whether he had followed the law before ordering an extraordinary deployment to Los Angeles over the weekend.

U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer, presiding over the case, pushed back against the Justice Department's central argument: that courts had no say in the matter.

"We're talking about the president ... exercising his authority, and, of course, the president is limited in his au-

thority," Breyer said. "That's the difference between the president and King George."

"We live in response to a monarchy," the judge continued, adding: "Line drawing is important, because it establishes a system of process."

In the lengthy hearing, Breyer directed most of his questioning to the Trump administration, which has cited Title 10 of the U.S. Code to justify the takeover of the National Guard. But that provision, the judge noted, requires that orders from the president "shall be issued through the governors of the States."

"I'm trying to figure out how something is 'through' somebody, if in fact you didn't send it to him," Breyer asked. "As long as he gets a copy of it at some point, it's going through?"

The judge was less willing, however, to engage in the legality of Trump's deployment of U.S. Marines to Los Angeles. Attorneys for California noted that 140

[See Judge, A7]

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HOMELAND SECURITY Secretary Kristi Noem has lunch with National Guard troops in Westwood.

LUKE JOHNSON Los Angeles Times

Voices STEVE LOPEZ COLUMNIST

Why federal invasion of L.A. feels so personal

President Trump has sent an army to the city, but isn't that really about putting on a show, creating a crisis where there was none?

was driving while listening to the news Sunday when I heard House Speaker Mike Johnson justify President Trump's move to send National Guard troops to Los Angeles:

We have to maintain the rule of law almost swerved off the road.

Maintain the rule of law?

Trump pardoned the hooligans who ransacked the Capitol because he lost the 2020 presidential election. They clashed with police, destroyed property and threatened the lives of public officials, and to Trump, they're heroes.

Maintain the rule of law?

Trump is a 34-count felon who has defied judicial rulings, ignored laws that don't serve his interests, and turned his current presidency into an unprecedented adventure in self-dealing and graft.

And then he sent an invading army out of Angelenos, creating a crisis where there was none. Arresting undocumented immigrants with criminal records is one thing, but is that what this was about? Or was it about putting on a show, occupying commercial and residential neighborhoods, raiding car washes and fashion warehouses, and arresting people who were looking for — or on their way to — work?

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth warned that U.S. Marines were on high alert and ready to roll, and I wondered: What next, the Air Force?

Not yet, but Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) was tackled and hauled out of a Homeland Security news conference in Los Angeles on Thursday for trying to ask a question, so anything's possible going forward.

I'm not going to defend the vandalism and violence that followed ICE arrests in Los Angeles, though it's worth noting that most protests were peaceful.

But I am going to defend Los Angeles and the way things work here.

[See Lopez, B5]

Voices ANITA CHABRIA COLUMNIST

Newsom's speech on democracy could turn the tables on president

Frame it as a call to action or a presidential campaign announcement, Gov. Gavin Newsom's address to America on Tuesday has tapped into our zeitgeist (German words feel oddly appropriate at the moment) in a way few others have.

"Democracy is under assault right before our eyes," Newsom said during a live broadcast with a California flag and the U.S. flag in the background. "The moment we've feared has arrived."

What moment exactly is he referring to?

President Trump has put Marines and National Guardsmen on the streets of Los Angeles, and granted himself the power to put them anywhere. Wednesday, a top military leader said those forces could "detain" protesters, but not outright arrest them — despite what you see

[See Chabria, B4]



MILITARY

State's national monuments on Trump hit list?

Justice Department says president can undo designations by his predecessors.

By LILA SEIDMAN

President Trump has the authority to abolish national monuments set aside by past presidents to protect areas of historic and scientific interest, the Justice Department said in an opinion this week, potentially laying the groundwork to dismantle California's two newest monuments — Chuckwalla and Sáttila Highlands.

The May 27 legal opinion released Tuesday overturns a more than 80-year-old Justice Department determination that presidents can't revoke national monuments created by their predecessors under the Antiquities Act.

The finding follows an Interior Department effort to explore altering monuments as part of a push to expand U.S. energy production, a move that set off alarm bells among conservationists that certain public lands could be on the chopping block.

Then-President Biden signed proclamations designating Chuckwalla and Sáttila Highlands national monuments in California's desert and far north shortly before leaving office early

this year. The Justice Department, in its new opinion, said it was asked to look into whether the Antiquities Act — the 1906 law permitting presidents to create monuments — can be used to revoke them.

The opinion, titled "Revocation of Prior Monument Designations," says it can.

In the 50-page document, Deputy Assistant Atty. Gen. Lanora Pettit wrote that presidents can find "that the 'landmarks,' 'structures,' or 'objects' identified in the prior declaration either never were or no longer are deserving of the Act's protections; and such an alteration can have the effect of eliminating entirely the reservation of the parcel of land previously associated with a national monument."

Since its passage, the Antiquities Act has been used by 18 presidents — split evenly between Republicans and Democrats — to designate monuments. California is home to 21 national monuments, more than any other state.

During a Wednesday hearing in Washington, Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) questioned Interior Secretary Doug Burum about the opinion, which he called "extremely dangerous."

He specifically asked what the secretary's intentions were with regard to the Golden State's newest monuments, which he de-

[See Monuments, B2]

Judge resentences celebrity lawyer to 11-year term for fraud

Michael Avenatti stole millions from clients including Stormy Daniels.

By BRITTNY MEJIA

Michael Avenatti, the once-swaggering celebrity lawyer who represented adult film star Stormy Daniels in her court battles against President Trump, was resentenced Thursday to 11 years in prison for dodging taxes and stealing millions of dollars from clients.

U.S. District Judge James V. Selna resented Avenatti to 135 months — slightly more than 11 years — but credited him 40 months for the time he has served in prison for stealing nearly \$300,000 from Daniels' advance on a book contract. That brought his sentence to nearly eight years.

Avenatti has done many noble and good things in his

abandonment of some of the most basic principles of fairness."

Avenatti pleaded guilty in June 2022 to four counts of wire fraud for stealing money from clients and one count of obstructing collection of payroll taxes from his Seattle coffee business, which is now defunct.

One of the clients he stole from, Geoffrey Ernest Johnson, was a mentally ill paraplegic man on disability. Selna on Thursday ordered Avenatti to pay about \$9 million in restitution to his victims — at least 10, including the Internal Revenue Service and the State Bar of California.

Avenatti, who appeared in court in Santa Ana dressed in a gray sweatshirt and sweatpants, was sentenced to 14 years in prison in 2022. After he appealed the sentence, the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ordered a new hearing. The 9th Circuit found that the trial judge based his decision

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WSJ

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL WEEKEND

REVIEW



What the D.C. Parade Means for the Military

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What's News

Business & Finance

◆ The escalating conflict in the Middle East dragged stocks lower and sent oil prices surging more than 7%. The Dow, S&P 500 and Nasdaq declined 1.8%, 1.1% and 1.3%, respectively. A1

◆ Walmart, Amazon and other big merchants are exploring how to issue or use stablecoins, which potentially could save them billions of dollars in fees. A1

◆ The founder of 23andMe, Anne Wojcicki, is poised to regain control of the DNA-testing company after the nonprofit she controls outbid Regeneron with a \$305 million offer. B9

◆ The world's biggest meat company, JBS, made its debut on the NYSE, riding strong earnings and American consumers' fixation on protein. B9

◆ Brookfield Infrastructure has struck a deal for internet-service provider Hotwire, according to people familiar with the matter. B9

◆ Solar energy installer and financier Sunnova Energy International has received approval for a loan and to use proceeds from asset sales to operate in bankruptcy. B10

◆ The mood among American consumers brightened in June following signs that Trump's trade wars haven't caused major economic upheaval thus far. A4

World-Wide

◆ Iran accused Israel of starting a war with a wave of military strikes that targeted its nuclear program and devastated its military leadership, prompting Tehran to retaliate with missile strikes that Israeli officials said were aimed at the country's civilian population. A1, A6-7

◆ Trump's military parade is designed to be a spectacle, but the president's opponents want their nationwide protests, dubbed "No Kings Day," to be an even bigger one. A2

◆ Far-right social-media accounts with hundreds of thousands of followers are posting about the rallies and encouraging their people to respond, in some cases with violence. A2

◆ Kilmar Abrego Garcia, who was mistakenly deported to an El Salvador and spent several months in prisons, pleaded not guilty in Nashville to human smuggling charges that defense lawyers said weren't credible. A3

◆ Four detainees at an ICE detention center in Newark, N.J., have escaped. A3

◆ Investigators probing the deadly crash of an Air India Boeing 787 have recovered the aircraft's flight recorders. A8

◆ North Korea's Kim said a capsized warship has been



An explosion lights up the sky in Tel Aviv on Friday as Iran launched a barrage of missiles in retaliation for Israeli strikes targeting Tehran's nuclear program and military leaders. Scan the code on A6 to watch video of missiles over Tel Aviv.

Missiles are fired at Tel Aviv after strikes hit Tehran brass and nuclear program

BY ANDREW DOWELL
AND DOV LIEBER

Israel and Iran traded attacks Friday hours after a wave of Israeli planes and drones targeted Tehran's nuclear program and military leadership, prompting Iran to retaliate and accuse Israel of starting a war.

The Iranian missile strikes targeted central Tel Aviv, after Israel said it had detected dozens of missiles launched from Iran. Paramedics said they were treating five people injured by shrapnel, and Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said Iran had "crossed a red line" by firing missiles at populated civilian areas.

Earlier, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel said the country's military operation would last "as many days as it takes," with a senior official saying Israel planned out 14 days of strikes.

Please turn to page A6

◆ Iranian supreme leader is vulnerable A6
◆ Iran talks served as cover for Israel A7

Stocks Fall Sharply As Oil Prices Surge

By VICKY GE HUANG

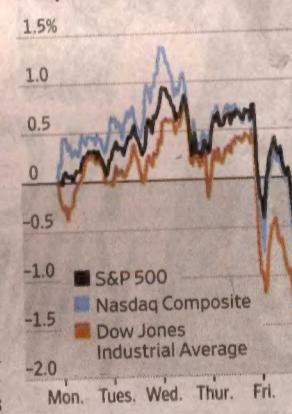
The escalating conflict in the Middle East dragged stocks lower and sent oil prices surging on Friday, marking the latest geopolitical episode to rattle the markets this year.

Stocks fell sharply after Israel launched a wide-ranging attack against Iran's nuclear facilities and military leadership, and Tehran retaliated with drone strikes and missile barrages.

The specter of a regional war and its potential disruption to global energy flows

Please turn to page A7

Index performance this past week



Trump, Despite Promises, Discovers Peace Is Elusive

WASHINGTON—President Trump predicted on the first day of his second term that he would be remembered as a peacemaker and a unifier. On Friday, after Israel launched a devastating attack on Iran, he praised the operation as "a very successful attack, to put it mildly."

For Trump, five months after returning to the White House, the world has proved to be more angry, violent and unpredictable than he bargained for.

Israel's strikes on Iran threaten to envelop the Middle East in a broader conflagration, potentially dragging in the U.S. to defend its long-time ally. The war in Ukraine, which Trump vowed to end immediately, is grinding on despite his repeated attempts

to broker a resolution. And peace in Gaza remains elusive.

In an interview with The Wall Street Journal on Friday, Trump said he was aware of Israel's plans to attack Iran. "I told the other side, I said, you have 60 days to make the deal.

On the 61st day, they attacked. Today is 61 actually, and it was a very successful attack," he said. "They should have made a deal and they still can make a deal while they have something left—they still can."

The tension in the Middle East has inflamed long-simmering disagreements in Trump's political base over U.S. intervention in foreign affairs.

"Ultimately, reality triumphs over fantasy—sometimes it takes a while," said John Bolton, a national security adviser to Trump in his first term who later became a

Please turn to page A6

Walmart, Amazon Are Exploring Issuing Stablecoins of Their Own

Some of the biggest merchants are exploring how to issue or use stablecoins, potentially shifting their high

By Gina Heeb,
AnnaMaria Andriotis
and Josh Dawsey

volumes of transactions outside the traditional financial system and saving billions of dollars in fees.

Walmart, Amazon.com and other multinational giants have recently explored whether to issue their own stablecoins in the U.S., according to people familiar with the matter.

Expedia Group and other large companies such as airlines have also discussed potential efforts to issue stablecoins, some of the people said.

A move to launch crypto-based payments by Walmart

or Amazon that bypasses the traditional payments system would send shivers through the nation's banks and card-network giants.

With vast networks of customers and employees, troves of data and far lighter regulations, retail and technology companies have long been viewed as particular threats to banks, including regional and

Please turn to page A4



Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits Viswashkumar Ramesh.

The Man in Seat 11A: